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## Book Review

### *The Human Body*

Selected and Arranged by the Monks of Solesmes  
(Papal Teachings)

#### Review by

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This is "another volume in the valuable new series of Papal Teachings compiled by the Monks of Solesmes." The foreword of the book states that "this book gathers together the teachings of Popes Leo XIII, Pius XI and Pius XII concerning the origin, value, education, use and destiny of the human body."

Of the 93 documents found in the book, one selection is from the teachings of Leo XIII, two from Pius XI. All the rest are from Pius XII. But the book does not contain all the teachings of Pius XII. It has selections from 50 documents which pertain directly to the medical profession and its ancillary fields. Not included, however, are some thirty allocutions of the late Pontiff given during the last two years of his life. All of his other allocutions to the medical field (with a few minor talks omit-

ted) will be found in this book. The last allocution is that of May 19, 1956 to the Second World Congress on Fertility and Sterility. Quotations from documents not directed toward the medical field make up the rest of the selections.

The text is arranged according to the chronological sequence of the documents quoted. When any part of a given document is not cited, a brief insert summarizes the omitted parts.

The reference value of the book is cared for by the Alphabetical and Analytical Indices. The Analytical Index, as would be supposed, is the integrating factor for all the documents cited. This Index, with seven general headings and many subdivisions, coordinates fairly well the relevant passages from the Papal documents. Both indices, however, suffer from inadequacies. Although there is a

reference for *Agenetic periods*, there is none for the more commonly used term *Rhythm*. The *Principle of Totality* which has a listing in the Alphabetical Index does not have a complete listing of cross references. There is omission, for example, of a listing found in the Analytical Index and designated as "of particular importance." The reader is left with a good deal of searching before he finds all the texts on any given subject.

In the Index of Documents and Sources certain abbreviations are not explained. *CD* refers to *Catholic Documents*, *TPS* to *The Pope Speaks* (both periodicals) and *CTS* to *The Catholic Truth Society*, London.

Yet, for these deficiencies, this book fulfills a great need. It does contain more documents in English

translation and in a single volume of papal teachings for the medical field than any previous publication. It contains a wealth of Catholic thought on the responsibilities and dignity of the medical profession, as well as the dignity and purpose of man himself. It is a book which should be found on the shelves of every doctor — Catholic and non-Catholic alike.

### **The Human Body**

Selected and Arranged by The Monks of Solesmes

Printed in the United States of America by The Daughters of St. Paul

50 St. Paul's Ave., Boston 30, Mass.

394 pages (with 51 pages of indices)

\$4.00

